

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. **INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 21 September 1949

SUBJECT Status of the Deutsche Kugellagerfabrik,
Leipzig

NO. OF PAGES 3

25X1A

PLACE
ACQUIRED NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1A

DATE OF INFO

25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT OF 1917, U.S.C. 51 AND 52, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

This document is hereby upgraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

SOURCE

1945 to 1947

1. The "Deutsche Kugellagerfabrik GmbH" ("DKF") at 6 Gutenbergstrasse in LEIPZIG (N 52/E 21) W 35, adjoins the "Metallguss" Plant, Ltd. During the war the "DKF" was assigned to produce exclusively for the German aviation industry. The firm was a limited corporation of family shareholders. Foreign capital was also invested. The WITTE brothers, shareholders of the corporation, were entrusted with the management. These two men were in charge of the commercial and technical management even after the war. Approximately 5 percent of the plant was damaged by bombs, however these damages were repaired by the end of 1946.

25X1X

2.

a value of approximately nine million DME against an estimate approximating thirteen million DME made by the WITTE brothers. However, the Soviet economic officers, evaluating some machines at one DME each, gave an estimate of five million DME. Without further discussion the Soviets fixed the transfer value at approximately seven million DME, at which price the entire plant was taken over as a Soviet Corporation plant in the presence of the Landrat LUDWIG, the notary Dr. BLUME, and the staff of Soviet officers.

3. A Soviet Colonel, previously engaged in the Soviet ball bearing industry and coming from the MOSCOW "Gospodshipnikstroi" Plant, became general manager of the "DKF" Plant. He was one of the few officers with a higher level education. Under this Soviet manager the "DKF" Plant was renamed "Leipziger Kugellagerfabrik, Sowjetischer Staatsbetrieb"

25X1A

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

B/EC

DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS
DDA Memo 4 Apr 77
DDA REG 77/1783
Date: 23 May 78 By:

25X1

4. Approximately 1,200 workmen and clerks are employed in the plant. It has about 600 machines, some of them of modern design including multiple spindle automatic lathes which could mass-produce simultaneously outer and inner rings of ball bearings.
5. A "DKF" specialty was the production of small ball bearings being manufactured at an approximate monthly capacity of 600,000 pieces. After the transfer into Soviet state property, the total ball bearing production was shipped to the SU. No changes of previously produced dimensions were made, which may suggest that the ball bearings could be used for the same airplane types as were used by the former German Air Force. The "DKF" machine installations do not permit an automatic production of large ball bearings but only of bearings with an outer diameter ranging up to 60 mm. The heavy double shouldered bearings ("Doppelschulterlager") for tractors, tanks etc. are constructed in the large MOSCOW "Gospodshipnikstroi" Ball Bearing Plant (labor force 20,000 men) with special American and German machines. The equipment for the MOSCOW Plant was furnished by the American ball bearing expert, Mr. SCHUBERT, who can confirm the excellent quality of the MOSCOW-produced bearings.
6. The monthly 1946 production of the LEIPZIG "DKF" Plant approximated 60,000 bearings of various sizes also including a small serial production of special bearings.
7. The testing of the products was made in compliance with the tolerances prescribed by the former German Air Ministry. However in 1946 it was planned to adjust the testing of bearings to Soviet regulations which has probably now been done. The commercial manager, WITTE, had to leave when the plant was converted into a Soviet Corporation Plant. The operational manager, WITTE, remained at the plant.

25X1A 8. ☐ Comment:

a. The "Deutsche Kugellagerfabrik" consisted of two plants: Plant I in LEIPZIG and Plant II at 6 Gutenbergstrasse in BOENLITZ-ENKENBERG near LEIPZIG which had spur tracks. This report obviously refers to Plant II in BOENLITZ-ENKENBERG.

b. The prewar labor force of Plant II numbered 540 men. It produced ball bearings, roller bearings, needle bearings and needle roller bearings.

c. The plant is now assigned to the "Avtovelo" Soviet Corporation. Some of the plants combined in this Soviet Corporation are

"Karl Reich" Ball Bearing Plant in ZIEHLA-HEILIS/Thuringia
(M 51/J 03)

"Gebr Heller" Ball Bearing Plant in KARLSTHAL (M 51/H 85).

d. The statement made in paragraph 6 that the machine installations of the plant permitted only manufacturing of bearings up to a 60 mm outer diameter is disproved by available original records (B-2) on the 1947 production of the plant. These records listed the following production amounts and prices (1944 prices):

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

	March 1947		April 1947	
	pieces	value (LME)	pieces	value (LME)
Ball bearings up to 100 mm gauge:	60860	461977	62421	443460
Ball bearings exceeding 100 mm gauge:	198	24165	201	28708
Roller bearings up to 100 mm gauge:	11379	105833	9575	1007009
Roller bearings exceeding 100 mm gauge:	86	9422	43	11450
Needle bearings:	1249	7369	2211	13045
Antifriction bearings ("Waelzkörper") (rolls and needles):	925920	39553	770864	36988

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY